

## Amended Patent claims

1           1. (original) A reactor bottom (2) of a reactor (1)  
2           with a collecting funnel (7) formed with an upper side  
3           (5),  
4           with a receiving opening (15) formed in the collecting  
5           funnel (7) and which connects to an outlet passage (18) extending  
6           through the reactor bottom (2),  
7           and with a closure part (16) for the harvesting opening  
8           (15) which is movably arranged in the reactor bottom (2) and  
9           displaceable between a closed position in which it closes the  
10          harvesting opening (17) of the collecting funnel (7), and a  
11          discharge position in which it is lowered in the reactor bottom (2)  
12          and establishes a connecting between the harvesting opening (15)  
13          and the outlet passage (18).

1           2. (original) The reactor bottom according to claim 1  
2           characterized in that the surface (17) of the closure part (16) is  
3           configured as a guide or baffle surface for guiding the reactor  
4           content from the harvesting opening (15) into the outlet passage  
5           (18).

1           3. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
2           claim 1~~or 2~~ characterized in that the surface (17) of the closure  
3           part (16) forms a collecting region (26) at a deep lying level  
4           whereby the collecting region (26) in the lowered discharge

5 position of the closure part (16) is juxtaposed with the outlet  
6 passage (18).

7 4. (original) The reactor bottom according to claim 3  
8 characterized in that the collecting region (26) on the surface  
9 (17) of the closure part (16) is configured with a point shape or  
10 line shape.

11 5. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
12 ~~one of the claims 1—4~~ claim 1 characterized in that the  
13 harvesting opening (15) is located eccentrically to the central  
14 axis (6) of the collecting funnel (7) and especially the edge of  
15 the harvesting opening (15) coincides with the central axis (6) of  
16 the collecting funnel (7).

1 6. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
2 ~~one of claims 1—5~~ claim 1 characterized in that the surface (17)  
3 of the closure part (16) is inclined with respect to the central  
4 axis (6) or is domed.

1 7. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
2 ~~one of claims 1—6~~ claim 1 characterized in that the surface (17)  
3 of the closure part (16) is flush in its closed position to the  
4 surface of the collecting funnel (7).

1           8. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
2 ~~one of claims 1—7~~ claim 1 characterized in that an outlet recess  
3 extends in the reactor bottom (2) from the harvesting opening (15)  
4 and is especially parallel to the central axis (6) of the  
5 collecting funnel (7) and receives the closure part (16) slidably  
6 and at least one outlet passage (18) opens into the outlet recess  
7 (13).

8           9. (original) The reactor bottom according to claim 8  
9 characterized in that an annular groove (25) is formed in the wall  
10 (14) of the outlet recess (13) and/or a plurality of openings are  
11 formed therein, which communicate with the outlet passage (18).

1           10. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
2 ~~one of claims 1—9~~ claim 1 characterized in that at least one  
3 discharge passage (23) opens into the collecting funnel (7) and is  
4 closed with a sieve (24).

5           11. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
6 ~~one of claims 1—10~~ claim 1 characterized in that the reactor  
7 bottom (2) is formed in one piece with the reactor (1) or the  
8 reactor wall (11) or that the reactor (1) or the reactor wall (11)  
9 is detachably connected to the reactor bottom (2) and is fixed on  
10 the upper side (5) of the reactor bottom (2) such that the reactor  
11 wall (11) surrounds the collecting funnel (7).

1           12. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
2 ~~one of claims 1—11~~ claim 1 characterized in that the closure part  
3 (16) is displaceable manually or by means of a drive device (20,  
4 21, 22) arranged on the reactor bottom (2).

1           13. (currently amended) The reactor bottom according to  
2 ~~one of claims 1—12~~ claim 1 characterized in that the funnel or  
3 conical angle of the collecting funnel (7) is substantially 130° to  
4 170°, especially 153°.

5           14. (currently amended) A method of separating a phase  
6 from a phase mixture in a reactor with a reactor bottom according  
7 to ~~one of claims 1—13~~ claim 1 whereby the phase mixture is  
8 introduced into the reactor, the phases are separated and in the  
9 closed position of the closure part, deposits on the collecting  
10 funnel and then a connection is opened between the harvesting  
11 opening and the outlet passage whereby the desired phase is  
12 discharged through the harvesting opening and the outlet passage of  
13 the reactor.

1           15. (original) The method according to claim 14  
2 characterized in that the phase mixture is a mixture of solid and  
3 liquid phases and the phase separation is carried by sedimentation.

1           16. (currently amended) The method according to claim  
2 ~~14—ex 15~~ characterized in that the phase mixture is a hardening

3 bath and capsules are contained in the hardening bath as the phase  
4 to be separated.

5 17. (original) The method according to claim 16  
6 characterized in that especially before the withdrawal of the  
7 capsule in a further method step the hardening bath is discharged  
8 through the discharge passage and rinsing liquid is introduced into  
9 the reactor and is then discharged through the discharge passages,  
10 this method step being carried out once or a number of times.

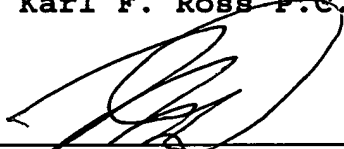
1 18. (currently amended) The method according to claim  
2 ~~16 or 17~~ characterized in that the capsules are sodium cellulose  
3 capsules.

1 19. (currently amended) The method according to ~~one of~~  
2 ~~claims 16—18~~ claim 16 characterized in that the capsules contain  
3 biological cells, especially animal, human or plant cells.

Atty's 23452.. Pat. App. Not known - US phase of PCT/EP2004/008260

This preliminary amendment is submitted to provide the cross reference of the present US phase of PCT/EP2004/008260 to the international application according to Rule 78 and to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,  
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